IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for assigning phonemes to a lexicon of words using a dynamic time warping algorithm to phonetically transcribe the words by assigning phoneme sequences to grapheme sequences of the words, where the assignment of graphemes to phonemes within a word is corrected with aid of position-dependent relative frequencies including a frequency with which at least one grapheme at a specific position within a grapheme group is assigned to at least one phoneme.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for assigning phonemes to graphemes producing them in a lexicon having words (grapheme sequences) and corresponding associated phonetic transcription (phoneme sequences), comprising:

determining relative frequency with which the phonemes and the graphemes are assigned to one another for each assignment of phonemes and graphemes,

creating for each word of the lexicon a two-dimensional matrix (incidence matrix), one index of which is given by the grapheme of the word, and the second index of which is given by the phoneme of the word,

selecting the relative frequencies belonging to the respective phoneme-grapheme pair determined as entries of the matrix,

logically combining each matrix entry with aid of a mathematical operation with the extreme value of the following three preceding matrix entries:

the entry for the same phoneme and the preceding grapheme in the word,

the entry for the preceding phoneme and the same grapheme in the word, and

the entry for the preceding phoneme and the preceding grapheme in the word,

using the first grapheme and the first phoneme of the word as the starting point in the mathematical operation, and using the modified entries of the matrix in determining the extreme values, the modified entries being respectively yielded from the mathematical operation,

determining which of the three preceding matrix entries was extreme to thereby determine a direction for this matrix entry,

defining the direction determined for the matrix entry, starting from the matrix entry for the last phoneme and the last grapheme, and proceeding along a path through the matrix up to the matrix entry for the first phoneme and the first grapheme, and

using the matrix elements along the path to define the assignment of graphemes to phonemes of the word, where the assignment of graphemes to phonemes within a word is corrected with aid of position-dependent relative frequencies including a frequency with which at least one grapheme at a specific position within a grapheme group is assigned to at least one phoneme.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the relative frequencies are determined by selecting words from the lexicon in the case of which the number of the graphemes and the number of the phonemes coincide, for the selected words, the graphemes and phonemes are assigned to one another in the sequence of the specification of their graphemes and phonemes in the lexicon.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein after execution of the assignment of graphemes to phonemes for each word of the lexicon, these assignments are used to determine the position-dependent relative frequency with which at least one of the following combination occur:

a phoneme produced by two or more graphemes,

two or more phonemes produced by a grapheme,

two or more graphemes assigned to a phoneme, and

a grapheme assigned to two or more phonemes.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein after execution of the assignment of graphemes to phonemes for each word of the lexicon, these assignments are used to determine the position-dependent relative frequency with which at least one of the following combinations occur:

a phoneme produced by two or more graphemes,

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two or more phonemes produced by a grapheme,

two or more graphemes assigned to a phoneme, and

a grapheme assigned to two or more phonemes.

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein
after assigning graphemes to phonemes for selected words in the sequence of the
specification, for each word of the lexicon, the corrected assignments are used to recalculate the
position-dependent relative frequency with which a phoneme is produced by two or more
graphemes, or two or more phonemes are produced by a grapheme; and
the recalculated position dependent relative frequencies are used to again assign
graphemes to phonemes for selected words in the sequence of the specification.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein each
matrix is combined with a multiplication mathematical operation, and in order to determine the
relative frequencies, only those assignments are taken into account in which the matrix entry for
the last phoneme and the last grapheme exceeds a prescribed threshold value after
multiplication of matrices.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein
the matrix entry for the first phoneme and the first grapheme of each word is set to 1;
the matrix entry for the last phoneme and the last grapheme of each word is set to 1;
the matrix entry for the first phoneme and the last grapheme of each word is set to 0; and
the matrix entry of the last phoneme and the first grapheme of each word is set to 0.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein if in the determination of the
maximum value of the three preceding matrix entries the matrix entry for the preceding phoneme
and the preceding grapheme in the word and one of the other two entries are of equal
magnitude, the matrix entry for the preceding phoneme and the preceding grapheme in the word
is regarded as a maximum.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer system of assigning phonemes to a lexicon of words, comprising:

a storage device for storing a computer program on a storage medium; and

a processing unit for loading the computer program from the storage device and for executing the computer program so as to use a dynamic time warping algorithm to phonetically transcribe the words by assigning phoneme sequences to grapheme sequences of the words, wherein the assignment of graphemes to phonemes within a word is corrected with aid of position-dependent relative frequencies including a frequency with which at least one grapheme at a specific position within a grapheme group is assigned to at least one phoneme.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable medium storing a program for controlling a computer to perform a method of assigning phonemes to the graphemes producing them in a lexicon having words (grapheme sequences) and their associated phonetic transcription (phoneme sequences), comprising:

determining relative frequency with which phonemes and graphemes are assigned to one another for each assignment of phonemes and graphemes,

creating for each word of the lexicon a two-dimensional matrix (incidence matrix), one index of which is given by the grapheme of the word, and the second index of which is given by the phoneme of the word,

selecting the relative frequencies belonging to a respective phoneme-grapheme pair as entries of the matrix,

logically combining each matrix entry with the aid of a mathematical operation with the extreme value of the following three preceding matrix entries:

the entry for the same phoneme and the preceding grapheme in the word,

the entry for the preceding phoneme and the same grapheme in the word, and

the entry for the preceding phoneme and the preceding grapheme in the word,

using the first grapheme and the first phoneme of the word as the starting point in the mathematical operation, and using the modified entries of the matrix in determining the extreme values, the modified entries being respectively yielded from the mathematical operation,

determining which of the three preceding matrix entries was extreme to thereby determine a direction for this matrix entry,

defining the direction determined for the matrix entry, starting from the matrix entry for the last phoneme and the last grapheme, and proceeding along a path through the matrix up to the

matrix entry for the first phoneme and the first grapheme, and

using the matrix elements along the path to define the assignment of graphemes to phonemes of the word, where the assignment of graphemes to phonemes within a word is corrected with the aid of position-dependent relative frequencies including a frequency with which at least one grapheme at a specific position within a grapheme group is assigned to at least one phoneme.